

Tips for Designing in Drupal

John Albin Wilkins

Drupal Taiwan — February 27, 2010



How is Drupal unique? (what to watch out for)

- Expanding/collapsing regions
- Unique Drupal-isms (menus, tabs, etc.)
- #1 issue:
Drupal sites often grow after launch

What can happen when a website changes after launch?

1. Site admin adds new functionality using contrib module.
2. Design FAIL. Because design was too specific.
3. Pay for new design work. :-)

It's easy to design
specific elements.

It's challenging to
design generically.

Design generically

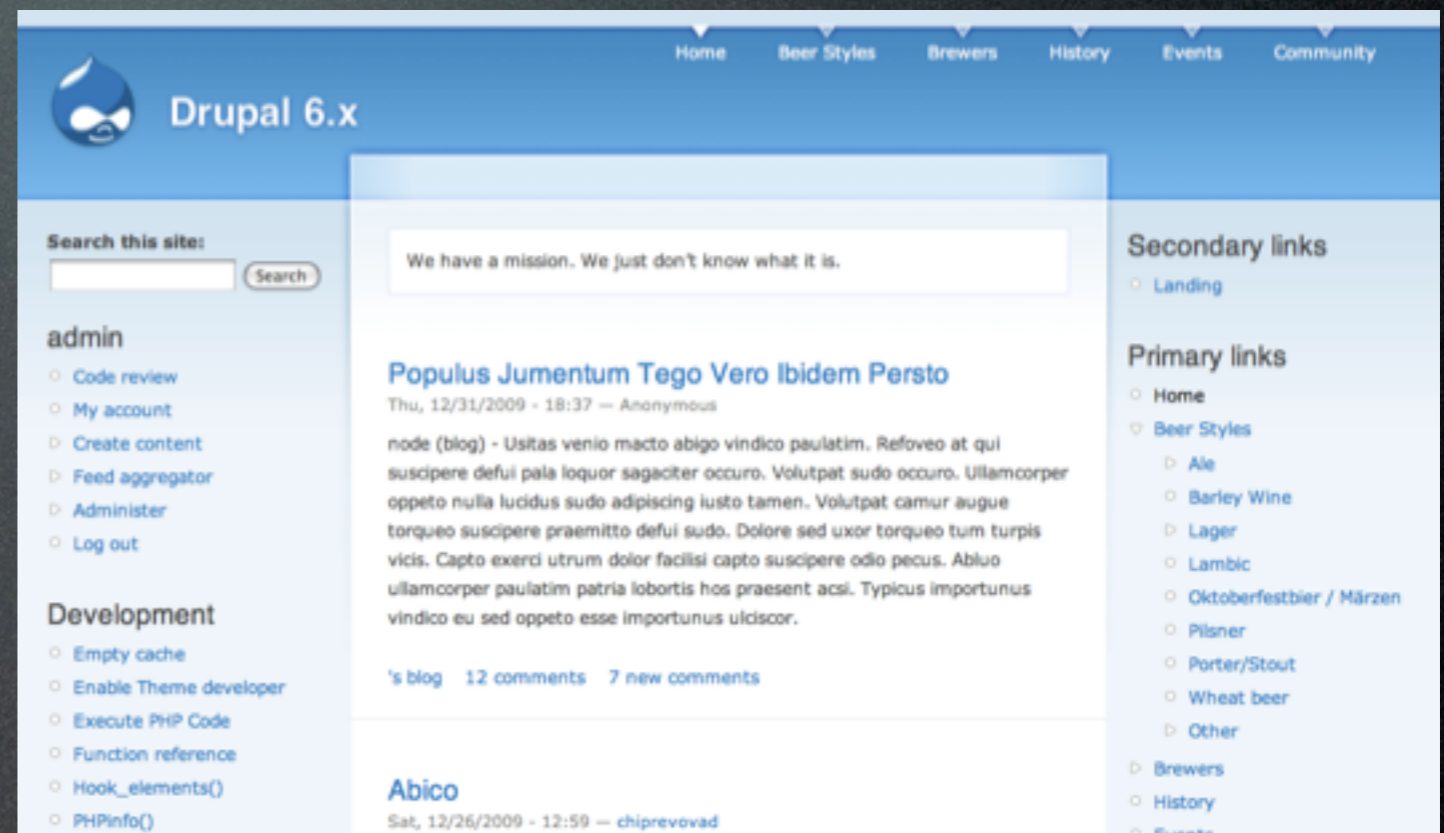
- HTML Elements — make a list of all HTML tags and style them all.
- Generic content page
- Generic block (for each region)
- Generic list of content (think Views)

Drupal-isms



Expanding/collapsing regions

- Regions only appear on a page if the region has content.
- Content column expands to take up space left by collapsed sidebar regions



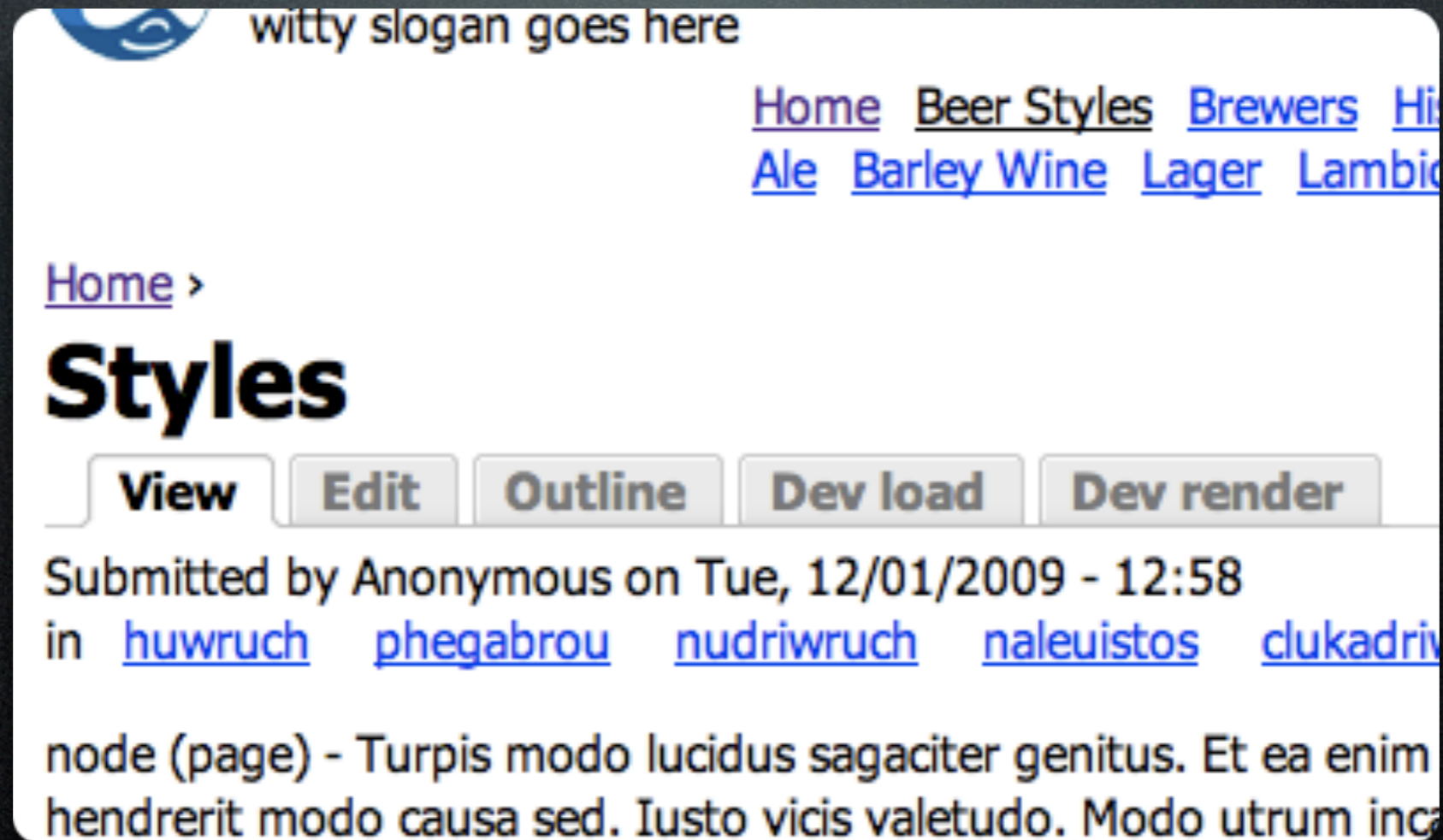
Menu trees

Extremely common navigation style

- [Home](#)
 - ▼ [Beer Styles](#)
 - ▶ [Ale](#)
 - [Barley Wine](#)
 - ▶ [Lager](#)
 - [Lambic](#)
 - [Oktoberfestbier / Märzen](#)
 - [Pilsner](#)
 - [Porter/Stout](#)
 - [Wheat beer](#)
 - ▶ [Other](#)
 - ▶ [Brewers](#)
- eo nutus
turpis.
- 000

View/Edit tabs

(and Revision/Outline/etc tabs)



witty slogan goes here

[Home](#) [Beer Styles](#) [Brewers](#) [Hi](#)
[Ale](#) [Barley Wine](#) [Lager](#) [Lambic](#)

[Home](#) >

Styles

View Edit Outline Dev load Dev render

Submitted by Anonymous on Tue, 12/01/2009 - 12:58
in [huwruch](#) [phegabrou](#) [nudriwruch](#) [naleuistos](#) [clukadri](#)

node (page) - Turpis modo lucidus sagaciter genitus. Et ea enim hendrerit modo causa sed. Iusto vicis valetudo. Modo utrum inc

Pager

(navigate through a list of content)

feugiat. Meus brevitat humo ex nulla erat ille amet. Uxor cui neque praemitto amet. Sudo singularis loquor gravis hos causa.

« first < previous 1 2 **3** 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... next > last »



Footer BS goes here. Replace with real content later.

The Basics: one more time...

- HTML Elements
- Generic page, block, content list
- Expanding/collapsing regions
- Menu trees
- View/Edit/etc Tabs
- Pager